

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. CT-786
Magi No. 0507865204
DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common King Fields

2. Location

street & number 25 Lower Marlborough Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Lower Marlboro ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Nevin Saylor

street & number 25 Lower Marlborough Road telephone no.:

city, town Owings Maryland state and zip code 20736

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio

city, town Prince Frederick state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-786

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

King Fields is located on the south side of Maryland Route 262 on the eastern edge of Lower Marlboro. The property on which the house stands forms the eastern boundary of the town lots that lie along the east side of the principal north-south road or street in the town. In addition to the early house on the property, there are two outbuildings, two tobacco barns, and a frame schoolhouse that was moved onto the property in 1932 from a neighboring lot in the town. All of these buildings have important historical associations with the house and, in the case of the school house, with the town. In addition, one small outbuilding of traditional design has been constructed in recent years.

The house known today as King Fields was constructed in at least four distinct parts. The earliest part of the house consists of a small, heavy timber frame dwelling. Dating to the 18th century, this early house was one story high with a steeply pitched gable roof. It consisted of a single room with loft above and is an excellent early example of a house form and type that was found throughout the Tidewater region in the colonial period but which has all but disappeared from the modern landscape.

This small, one room plan house was later incorporated into a larger frame house. This enlargement evidently occurred in the mid-19th century, probably circa 1840-60, and consists of a two story frame house with a center stair passage flanked by single rooms on each side. The earlier one room dwelling became the east room on the first floor of the later building. The roof of the original structure was removed and the rafters were reused in the more moderately pitched gable roof of the later building.

A more modest alteration was made circa 1900, when a small, one room addition was made to the center bay of the second story on the north or front facade. This single room projects out over a one story open porch and, with its pitched gable roof, forms a central focus to the front facade of the house.

The house was further enlarged circa 1910 by the addition of a two story kitchen wing to the east end of the rear facade. This rear wing was moved to its present location from the Ernest Owings property nearby using a team of oxen. This addition was made by George Samuel Younger, who was born in the house at King Fields in 1840. The wing had been occupied by Preacher John Ross prior to the move and is often still referred to as the Preacher John Ross House. According to local tradition the old exterior summer kitchen that still stands in the back yard was then converted into a meat house, with root cellar below.

In the 1970's the house was renovated and restoration work was begun, which continues to the present. The two story frame addition to the east gable wall of the house was undertaken at this time.

Today, the house at King Fields stands as an excellent illustration of the continuous growth and change that buildings typically undergo over time. The successive additions and enlargements are clearly visible, aided in particular by the exposed frame of the earliest house.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-786

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

King Fields is significant both for its association with the early Patuxent River town of Lower Marlboro and as an excellent example of a house that has grown and evolved in a series of relatively complex stages. The earliest part of the house is a one story one room plan house dating to the 18th century. This small, heavy timber frame building is representative of a house form and type that was widely found in the Tidewater region in the 18th and early 19th century but which has all but disappeared from the modern landscape.

In the mid-19th century, this small dwelling house was incorporated into a ge two story frame house with a center passage plan. This evolution in size is not unusual, and in the Lower Marlboro area may be compared with the Rowell House, the Armiger House, and the Spicknell House. The enlarged house was further expanded circa 1910 by the addition of a two story kitchen wing moved by a team of oxen from nearby. This building, known locally as the Preacher John Ross House, is also of heavy timber frame construction. Other modifications and an addition to the house date to the 20th century and complete the evolution of the house to its present appearance.

Significant details of the original house include the exposed heavy timer framing, the L-section corner posts, and the evidence of the original steeply pitched gable roof. The handsome open-string stair and the unusual six-panel doors are among the more significant features of the mid-19th century house.

Also associated with the house are a number of outbuildings. These include a summer kitchen/meat house, a chicken house, two tobacco barns and a school house. The earlier tobacco barn and the school house are the most significant of these. The school house was moved to this site from a nearby site in Lower Marlboro in 1932, and is worthy of further research and investigation due to its role in the educational history of the community.

Survey No. CT-786

PS-2746

7.1 (Description - Con't)

The front facade of the main house faces north to the road. The principal entrance is located in the center bay of the first story, flanked by a single 6/6 window on each side. The front door is an unusual six-panel door with nearly square panels centered below a double lock rail. It is framed with sidelights, panelling, and a transom. A one room addition now projects from the center bay of the second story, supported by a one story open porch that extends across the front facade of the house. A 6/6 window is centered on the projecting addition and a small, peaked lintel four-light window is centered in the upper gable. The pitched gable roof of this projecting addition creates a cross gable effect and adds a central focus to the entire facade. Single 6/6 windows are located to east and west of the center bay on this facade. The house rests on a continuous brick foundation and is covered with plain horizontal siding and an asphalt shingle roof. The eaves are boxed in with a plain cornice.

An exterior brick chimney is centered on the west gable wall, which is not pierced by window openings. The east gable wall is almost entirely concealed by the modern two story addition. The chimney on this gable wall is also centered.

On the rear or south facade, the two story frame kitchen wing conceals the east bay of the main house. A rear door in the center bay has been blocked, leaving 6/6 windows in the west bay of the first story and the center and west bays of the second story. The foundation, siding, cornice and roof match the front facade.

The rear wing was moved to this site circa 1910. It is two stories high with a pitched gable roof set perpendicular to the main house. A one story lean-to addition stretches across the south gable wall of the wing. The 6/6 windows, siding, cornice and roof all match the main house. An exterior brick chimney is centered on the south gable wall of the wing, flanked by six-light casement windows in the second story.

The interior of the main house consists of a center passage plan with a single room on either side of the stair passage. The room to the east of the passage is the original one room plan house described earlier. The framing of this early building has been left exposed, offering some clues to the original appearance of the house. The most interesting details still visible are the relatively unusual L-section corner posts, the heavy timber down-braces reinforcing the corner posts, and the exposed pit sawn ceiling joists.

The stair passage and the west room, as well as the entire second story, date to the second major period of construction circa 1840-60. The stair rises against the east wall of the passage to a landing at the south end, then turns 180 degrees and continues up to the second floor. It is an

7.2 (Description - Con't)

open-string stair with handsomely turned walnut newel posts, square balusters and a simple walnut rail.

The second story plan repeats the center passage plan of the first story, with the addition of a modern bath inserted into the turn of the century projecting bay on the north or front facade. A small 20th century bath that had been inserted in the east end of the east chamber has recently been removed, reestablishing the early configuration of that room.

The attic of the main house is unfinished and can be reached through a small opening in the ceiling of the stair passage. From the attic, it is possible to determine that the common rafters from the roof of the original one room plan house have been reused in the larger, more moderately pitched gable roof of the enlarged house. These rafters were originally half-lapped and nailed at the ridge and were set at an unusually steep pitch, in excess of 45 degrees. When the original roof was taken off, the rafter pairs were taken apart and reused, but at a more moderate 42 degree pitch. The early nails were removed, and machine made nails were used. Nail holes and lathing ghosts survive as evidence of a plastered ceiling in the loft of the original house.

There is access to a narrow crawl space underneath the house from a cellar in the 20th century addition. This crawl space yields little significant evidence, however.

Summer Kitchen This one story frame building lies directly to the rear or south of the kitchen wing. It measures approximately 10 feet square with a single door in the north gable wall. A steep interior ladder/stair descends to a small root cellar underneath the building.

Chicken House Further to the south there is a small rectangular frame chicken house with open sheds along each facade wall. The enclosed portion of the building measures 8 feet wide and 18½ feet long, oriented on a north-south axis. Open sheds measuring six feet wide extend the full length of the east and west walls.

Tobacco Houses Several hundred yards to the rear or south of the house are two tobacco barns. The most significant barn, lying closest to the house, probably dates to the second or third quarter of the 19th century. The barns are currently filled with tobacco and were not examined in detail.

School House The most important secondary building on the King Fields property is a one story frame school house that was moved onto the property from a site nearby in 1932. This was the second time the building had been moved. It is rectangular in plan, three bays long, and one story high, with a pitched gable roof oriented on an east-west axis. The west gable wall has been altered to incorporate large barn-type doors, but otherwise the building is largely intact, including the plaster and wainscot interior. Further research is required to determine the history of this building which served for generations as a school in Lower Marlboro.

15

RECEIVED

White •
Landing.

CT-786
KING FIELDS



CT-786

CT-786

King Fields

Lower Marlboro, Md.
Ellen Coxe, Summer 1981
Front or north facade



CT-786

CT-786 King Fields
Lower Marlboro, Md.
Ellen Coxe, Summer 1981
Rear facade from Southwest



CT-786

CT-786

King Fields

Lower Marlboro, Md.

Ellen Coxe, Summer 1981

Schoolhouse interior, from southwest



CT- 786

CT- 786

King Fields

Lower Marlboro, Md.

Ellen Coxe, Summer 1981

Schoolhouse from Southwest



CT- 786

King Fields

Lower Marlboro, Md.

Ellen Coxe, Summer 1981

Front door, north facade

98L-17

CT-786 (part)

LOWER MARLBORO SCHOOL

(1887)

Lower Marlboro

Private

The Lower Marlboro School, located on the grounds of King Fields, a designated Calvert County Historic District, is in near ruinous condition. Originally located elsewhere in Lower Marlboro, the building was moved to the property in 1932 and converted to a garage. It is a gable-roofed, wood-framed building, originally one bay wide and three bays deep, typical of one-room schoolhouses of Calvert County.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Lower Marlboro School (part of CT-786)

a) Historical Period Theme: Social/Education/Cultural

b) Geographic Organization: Western Shore

c) Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

d) Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): school

Known Design Source: none

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CT-786
(part)

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name

historic Lower Marlboro School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 25 Lower Marlboro Road (Maryland Rt. 262) ☐ not for publication

city, town Lower Marlboro ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Nevin K. Saylor

street & number 25 Lower Marlboro Road telephone no.: 410-855-6948

city, town Lower Marlboro state and zip code MD 20736

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Circuit Court Clerk's Office liber ABE 245

street & number 175 Main Street folio 496

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-786 (part)

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☒ moved

date of move 1932

The Lower Marlboro School is situated on the grounds of King Fields (CT-786, HD 83-1), an eighteenth century estate in northern Calvert County. A portion of the King Fields property is a designated Calvert County Historic District. The school is within the historic district. Most recently it has been used as a garage. It is presently in poor condition, having recently sustained damage from falling tree limbs.

The gable-fronted structure, which measures approximately 24 feet wide and 30 feet deep, presently has paired side-hinged, vertical board garage doors spaced across its west facade. An oculus opening, lacking lights, is centered in the gable peak. The side walls are fenestrated with regularly spaced, six over six, double hung windows. Most window panes are missing, and many of the sashes are skewed in their frames. The walls of the building are sheathed in deteriorating, unpainted clapboards. The roof is sheathed in corrugated metal sheets. The building is slightly raised on brick piers.

The interior of the building contains a single large room. The walls and ceiling are plastered. Substantial portions of the ceiling have fallen, exposing lath in places; and some lath has also fallen, exposing framing. A chalkboard is evident in the east end wall.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-786 (part)

Period	Areas of Significance--Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistory	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1887

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
 Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Although altered in its conversion to a garage and in very poor condition, the Lower Marlboro School is significant as one of only a small number of extant one-room school buildings in Calvert County.

As Barbara Weaver noted in her article on the schools of Lower Marlboro, education has long been a part of the history of the village. As early as 1775, Dr. John Hamilton Smith donated a lot of ground near the village on which Lower Marlboro Academy was erected at private expenses. The academy remained in operation until the Revolutionary War and was reopened in 1791. The building was used as a primary school until it burned in the winter of 1886.

In April 1887, bids were advertised to construct a new school building to replace that one destroyed by fire. The lowest bid, \$379, was received from Messrs. Spicknall and Boyd, and this bid was accepted. Shortly after its completion, the Board of School Commissioners awarded a contract to move the school from its original location to another site in the village. This contract was awarded to R.Z. Younger.

In 1899, the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the village wanted to build a parsonage next to the church where the school stood. The Board of School Commissioners traded lots with the church, and the school was moved one lot north. It stood there until it ceased use as a school in 1931. The school, along with the lot where it was located, was sold to Thomas King for \$250.

In 1932, Thomas King decided to build a house on the lot and had the school building moved to the land of his father, George W. King, on land known as King Fields. It remains on this site, having been converted to a garage at some undetermined time in the past. It is now vacant.

A c. 1912 school picture showing the Lower Marlboro School (photocopy attached) is owned by the Saylor, the present owners of the building. The school is shown as a typical one-room building with clapboard siding, central front door, and oculus in the gable peak.

Survey No. CT-786 (part)

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032
(301-514-7600)**

CT. 1252
786

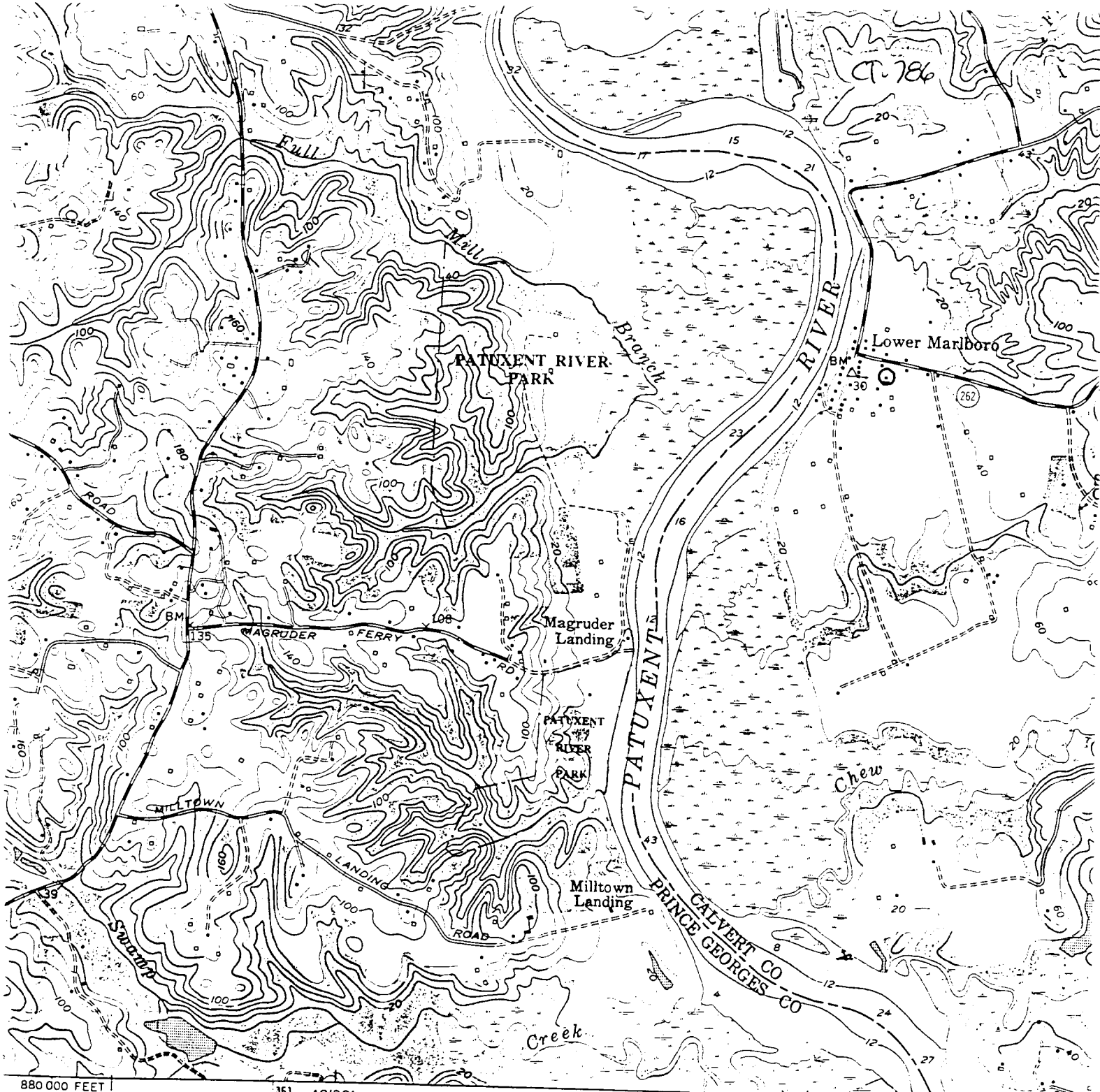
Lower
Marlboro
School
C. 1912



LOWER MARLBORO SCHOOL
Circa 1912

Back Row, Left to Right - Leila Owings, William Plummer,
Louise Scaggs, Grace Jones, Elsie Jones, Mary Owings,
Edith Ward, Myra Scaggs, Edna Scaggs, Albert Arminger
[with cap], Alice Ruth Gibson [directly behind Albert
Arminge], Carey Hinman [in front of the teacher], Eva
Prout [teacher], Thomas Osbourn, Ellsworth Arminger,
Irving Osbourn, James Gibson and Jessie Wells

Front Row, Left to Right - George King, Walter Swann,
Yvonne Gibson, Genevieve Hinman, Irma Gibson, Annette
Wells, Ralph Hinman, Dorothy Swann, Rachel Swann, Arthur
Jones, Carroll King and Thomas King

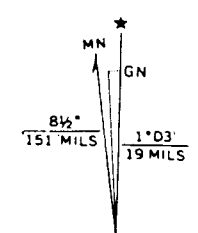


CT-786

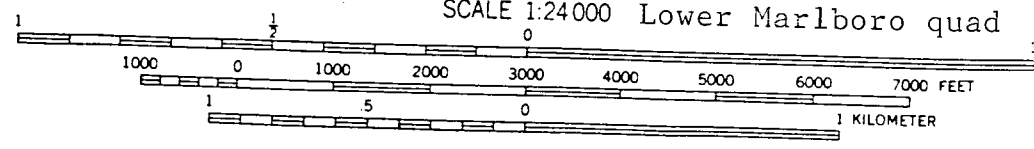
(BENEDICT)
5661 11 SW

Lower Marlboro School
Lower Marlboro
Lower Marlboro quad

SCALE 1:24000



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE AVERAGE RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



CP 786 (1941)

Lower Middlesex School

College Park, Md

Douglas C McVinish

March 11-72

P. 2 page 54

West facade & south elevation toward NE

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